

Celebrating Animals _____

Minutes from my home are the steep hills and lush canyons of several open-space preserves. They provide a safe refuge for wildlife and a quiet respite for city dwellers like me. There is always the chance I'll come across deer, bobcats, coyotes, rabbits, birds, or other wildlife. But my favorite encounters are with the lizards, insects, and other tiny creatures who often escape people's view. If you get down close, you can see the amazing complexity of every part of their bodies, especially their eyes. My plea to hikers is to pay attention to the ground level, because some of these animals don't move fast. I met this beautiful newt in the middle of a trail and couldn't resist a closer look.

— **Connie Pugh, Sunnyvale, California**



YOUR BEST SHOT

Do you have an inspiring photo of a favorite pet or wild animal? Send it to us for possible publication in *All Animals*, along with an explanation of 150 words or fewer about why it's meaningful to you. Photos should be at least 300 dpi at a size of 5-by-7" and at least 2 MB.

To upload your photo and information, visit humanesociety.org/yourbestshot. Send hard copy submissions to All Animals—Your Best Shot, The HSUS, 2100 L St., N.W., Washington, DC 20037. (Hard copies cannot be returned.)